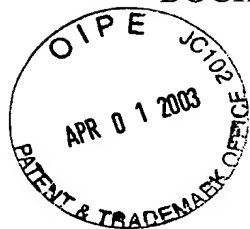


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PATENT



REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 C.F.R. § 1.116

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Covacci et al.

Confirmation No.: 4878

Serial No.: 09/360,934

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For: *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* CYTOTOXIN PROTEINS USEFUL FOR
VACCINES AND DIAGNOSTICS

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Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

This is in response to the Final Official Action dated December 18, 2002, issued in connection with the above-identified application. This Response constitutes a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend claims 40, 55, 63, 74, 76, 84, 95, and 99 to read as follows: